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ORIGINAL ARTICLES

RESPONSIBILITY FOR STATEMENTS AND CONCLUSIONS IN ORIGINAL ARTICLES

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THE BIRTH RATE: A FACTOR IN NATIONAL WELFARE*

By LUDWIG A. EMGE, M. D.

(From the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Stanford University, School of Medicine.)

It is not within the scope of this address to present to you statistics on birth and death rates with their bewildering maze of figures so confusing to the uninitiated. Its purpose is to point out to you certain basic factors that influence the birth rate in this country, which is of such importance to the welfare of this nation.

The average citizen knows little and often cares less about the growth of the nation. He is satisfied to find out through the censors that the population has increased, but he does not take the trouble to inform himself as to the source of supply which produced this increase. A few of our magazine writers have from time to time sounded a warning in regard to the insufficient number of births as compared to the number of deaths in this country. Although many individuals are reached by these publications, it is doubtful to my mind how far this information has penetrated into the population at large.

It requires the efforts of certain bodies of men and women to take upon themselves the burden of

missionary work in this field of mass education. The physician, for one, is especially fitted to take upon himself or herself the task to preach a gospel of a sane sexual life in regard to copulation and conception. This missionary work, when interwoven with the daily practice of medicine, must ultimately lead to a better information of all classes in regard to fertility and fecundity of the nation. This mission must reach young and old, single and married, until the population has realized to the fullest extent that a good average birth rate determines the maintenance of the race, while a declining birth rate ultimately leads to the decadence of the race, regardless of its accumulated wealth and its achievements.

The fact is that our birth rate is at a standstill and too low as compared to the death rate. There are a number of factors which have brought on this condition which are not generally appreciated, and I dare say are not even sufficiently realized by our own profession. I shall attempt to briefly point out to you some of the principal factors involved.

It has been said that an increase in the general intelligence of a nation leads to a decrease in birth rate. This is an assumption and not a fact. I only point to Russia. As long as the intelligent classes ruled, even if we do not approve their methods of government, Russia's economic status before the revolution was such that the average family could afford and was willing to produce children in excess of the death rate. It is unnecessary to point out to you what happened when the intelligent classes were destroyed. The dreadful result is only too well known to all of us.

Intelligence, in a general sense, rather favors fertility, although it may to some degree depress fecundity. This is best observed in academic communities where the number of children is most often two and seldom more than three to each family. While on the surface this would indicate that intelligence is interfering with normal production, this factor is offset by a lesser number of childless marriages and a lower infant death rate. Furthermore, here we have to deal with an offspring which is better physically and mentally fit to withstand disease and the reverses of life.

Although the poorer and less intelligent classes are faster breeders in general, it must not be forgotten that the infant and children's death rate is considerably higher and increases in a direct ratio to the total number of children for every family. Emma Duke cites an increase of death rate from 108.5 per 1000 in two-children families to 176.4

* Chairman's address at the meeting of the Section on Obstetrics and Gynecology, at the Fifty-Second Annual Session of the California Medical Association, San Francisco, June, 1923.

BOOK REVIEWS

Food for the Diabetic. What to eat and how to calculate it with common household measures. By Mary Pascoe Huddleson. 75 pp. New York: Macmillan Company. 1923. Price \$1.25.

A useful guide. It will prove a welcome manual for the doctor to put into the hands of his diabetic patients. L. E.

Digestive Disturbances in Infants and Children. (Annals of Roentgenology. A series of monographic atlases.) Roentgenologically considered by Charles Gilmore Kerley and Leon Theodore LeWald. Vol. 3. New York: Paul B. Hoeber. Price \$12.00.

A splendid atlas of roentgenograms of disturbances of the digestive tract in children. Its thoroughness and completeness do credit to the authors and its beauty to the art of bookmaking.

These monographs from the Annals of Roentgenology are monuments of the best there is in American workmanship. L. E.

Getting Ready To Be a Mother. A little book of information and advice for the young woman who is looking forward to motherhood. By Carolyn Conant Van Blarcom, R. N. 237 pp. Illustrated. New York: The Macmillan Company. 1922.

Carolyn C. Van Blarcom has written a very useful book to all interested in the problem of maternity.

It is written to be easily understood by the layman and reminds the patient that she must consult her physician early in pregnancy and at any time she has any complaint. It should be of much value in educating the expectant mother.

C. D. H.

BOOKS RECEIVED

A Textbook of Chemistry for Nurses. By Fredus N. Peters, Ph. D., Author of "Experimental Chemistry," "Laboratory Experiments," "Applied Chemistry," etc.; formerly Professor of Chemistry and Director of Laboratories, Kansas City College of Pharmacy; Professor Organic Chemistry Hahnemann Medical College; Instructor in Chemistry in Kansas City Central High School for twenty-three years; more recently Vice Principal. Illustrated. Second Edition. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby, 1923.

Principles of Bacteriology. By Arthur A. Eisenberg, M. D., Director of Laboratories, St. John's Hospital; Pathologist to Lakewood Hospital; Serologist to St. Ann's Hospital, Cleveland; Director of Laboratories, Mercy Hospital (Canton, Ohio). Second Edition. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1923.

Obstetrics for Nurses. By Charles B. Reed, M. D., Obstetrician to Wesley Memorial Hospital, Chicago. 144 illustrations, including two color plates. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Company, 1923.

The Normal Child: Its Care and Feeding. By Alan Brown, M. D., Physician in Chief to the Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto; Associate Professor of Medicine in charge of Pediatrics, University of Toronto, etc., etc. The Century Co., New York and London, 1923.

Physical Diagnosis, By Richard C. Cabot, M. D., Professor of Medicine in Harvard University, formerly Chief of the West Medical Service at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Eighth Edition. Revised and enlarged, with six plates and 279 figures in the text. New York: William Wood and Company. 1923.

The Notebook of an Electro Therapist, By Mel R. Waggoner, M. D. Illustrated. Published by the McIntosh Electrical Corporation, Chicago, Illinois. 1923.

Pennington's "Diseases and Injuries of the Rectum Anus and Pelvic Colon." 679 illustrations, including two plates. Cloth \$12.00. By J. Rawson Pennington, M. D., F. A. C. S., Proctologist to the Columbus Hospital, Veterans' Hospital No. 30, and the United States Marine Hospital. Chairman of the Scientific Assembly, Section on Gastro-Enterology and Proctology, American Medical Association. Published by P. Blakiston's Son & Co., 1012 Walnut street, Philadelphia.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA Office of the President

September 28, 1923.

The Physicians of the State of California:

Gentlemen: The work which Professor Kofoid of the University of California has been conducting for the last five years on the incidence of intestinal parasitism has thrown much light upon some forms of obscure and chronic human diseases. The accurate determination of these infections at present requires considerable technical skill. It is hoped that in the not distant future a larger number of competent technicians may secure the training necessary to extend this service more widely in the usual professional channels. In the meantime it is highly desirable that Professor Kofoid be able to complete his atlas of human intestinal parasitic infections, and also that a number of problems still obscure be carried as near as possible to solution in his laboratory.

To this end the University, through Professor Kofoid's laboratory, will make these examinations for physicians in accordance with instructions issued by the laboratory. The University does not seek to enter the commercial field in any way, and no charge will be made for this service. Any gifts which physicians, or their patients, or other friends of research in this field may wish to make to the Kofoid Research Fund will be administered by the Board of Regents of the University in support of this work.

The expense of the routine examinations made at the request of physicians, dispensaries, public health centers, etc., is now met solely by gifts to this Fund. The State Board of Health through its Hygienic Laboratory at Berkeley co-operates to the extent of sending out the containers and the reports. Applications for containers may be sent to Professor C. A. Kofoid, Zoology Building, University of California, Berkeley.

Yours faithfully,

W. W. CAMPBELL, President.

Chronic Actinic Cheilitis—Samuel Ayres, Jr., Los Angeles (Journal A. M. A., October 6, 1923), calls attention to a chronic inflammatory disorder of the lip, due apparently to the actinic or chemically active rays of sunlight. This chronic, scaly, crusted inflammation of the lips, especially of the lower lip, Ayres designates "cheilitis actinica chronica," or "cheilitis exfoliativa (actinica chronica)." This disorder is usually recurrent during the summer months. Protection from sunlight, and soothing local applications offer the best method of prevention and treatment. Since the etiology and treatment of this variety of cheilitis differ from other varieties, it is felt that this disease should be recognized as a distinct entity.

NEW MEMBERS

San Francisco—Elliott B. Tobias, Aime N. Fregeau, Elwood R. Oleson, Herbert S. Thomson, Leon C. Garcia, Irwin Wallace, Louis J. Overstreet, John C. W. Taylor, William H. Barrow.

Los Angeles—Otto R. Brown, Victor E. Verne, J. Park Dougall, Philip I. Hoke, R. A. Krause, H. A. MacMillan, George F. Schenck, Vincent Bonfiglio, William Paul Cook, Leo B. Auerbach, Edward G. Boyd, A. Lincoln Desser, Clement F. Dougherty, Louie Felger, H. G. Hambleton, W. M. Hoel, R. W. Karras, Francis B. Kellogg, Homer R. Keyes, H. B. Lehmberg, Samuel M. Marcus, Benjamin M. Mikels, Alleyne von Schrader, Henry J. Weedn, Carlisle B. Wiley, Burnett W. Wright.

Santa Clara—Richard T. Glyer, Thomas B. Moore.

San Mateo—J. G. Null, M. D. Lessard.

Alameda—Karl E. Kennedy, William G. Donald.

Lassen-Plumas—James McCue.

San Diego—Roy V. Larzalere, James G. Omelvena.

Modesto—John K. Morris.

Obituary

MEMORIAL TRIBUTE TO THE MEMORY OF JACKSON TEMPLE, LATE A MEMBER OF THE SONOMA COUNTY MEDICAL SOCIETY

To Its Officers and Members:

Whereas, our much esteemed and beloved associate, Jackson Temple, has been called from the walks of earth to the other and better world, it is fitting that we, the surviving members of the Sonoma County Medical Society, should pay a last tribute to his memory.

Dr. Temple was born in Santa Rosa, March 9, 1879. His early education was acquired at Mount Tamalpais Military Academy, followed by attendance at the University of California, where he graduated in pharmacy, later taking up the study of medicine, winning his medical degree in 1906. He was well equipped for the practice of his profession, both by education and temperament. Optimistic, resourceful, foremost in scientific research, yet modest and retiring; always prompt to respond to the call of the afflicted; appreciative, generous, punctilious in ethics, possessed of patience, devotion, industry and talent, he was the ideal physician we were proud to honor as one of our most valued associates.

At the outbreak of the World War he was one of the first to offer his services to his country, and was the only representative of the medical profession from Santa Rosa to participate in military activities in France. Coming from distinguished lineage, he lived in this community during his entire life, and carried the name untarnished to the grave. While his departure means a distinct loss to the profession and to the public, it is fortunate that his example stands before us for emulation, and it is for us to profit by the observance of his manifold virtues.

N. JUELL, Secretary.

DEATHS

Barmore, William Alfred. Died at San Francisco, September 26, 1923, age 53. Graduate of the Medical College of Ohio, Cincinnati, 1891. Licensed in 1892. He was formerly a member of the San Francisco County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Caldwell, Joseph Edmonds. Died at Glendale, October 3, 1923, age 68. Graduate of the Flint Medical College of the New Orleans University, 1881. He was a member of the Florida Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Gnekow, Emilie Louisa. Died at Stockton, October 4, 1923, age 51. Graduate of the Northwestern University of Chicago, 1901. She was a member of the San Joaquin County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and the American Medical Association.

Guidinger, Walter A. Died at Long Beach, September 18, 1923, age 42. Graduate of the Chicago College of Medicine and Surgery, 1907. Licensed in California in 1914. He was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Locke, Clayton W. Died at Lindsay, September 26, 1923, age 65. Graduate of the Louisville Medical College, 1888. Licensed in California in 1912. He was a member of the Tulare County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Murphy, William Roe. Died at Los Angeles, October 18, 1923, age 55. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, 1918. He was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Newlon, William Henry. Died at Berkeley, October 30, 1923, age 60. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Keokuk, Iowa, 1890. He was a member of the Iowa State Medical Society and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Purves, John. Died at Oakland, August 12, 1923, age 56. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, San Francisco, 1899. He was a member of the Alameda County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Reardon, Thomas Buckhead. Died at Oroville, September 28, 1923, age 63. Graduate of the University of California Medical School, 1882. Licensed in California, 1885. He was a member of Butte County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Row, William D. Died at San Francisco, September 19, 1923, age 61. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Baltimore, Maryland, 1883. He was a member of the Nevada State Medical Association and the American Medical Association.

Saylin, Abraham J. Died at Los Angeles, August 6, 1923, age 41. Graduate of the College of Physicians and Surgeons, Los Angeles, 1915. He was a member of the Los Angeles County Medical Association, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.

Stratton, Leon B. Died at Paso Robles, August 7, 1923, age 47. Graduate of the Saginaw Valley Medical College, Saginaw, Michigan, 1899. Licensed in California, 1901. He was a member of the San Luis Obispo County Medical Society, the California Medical Association, and a Fellow of the American Medical Association.